

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Please amend the claims as follows (with strikethrough indicating deletions and underlining indicating additions to the amended claims):

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
~~disposing SAKE in a translucent bottle, wherein the SAKE is pasteurized using a first pasteurization process;~~  
~~disposing an ear of rice in the translucent bottle, wherein the ear of rice is pasteurized using a second pasteurization process different than the first pasteurization process prior to being disposed in the translucent bottle; and~~  
sealing the translucent bottle.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the SAKE is brewed from rice of the same variety as that of the ear of rice.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~  
~~pasteurizing the SAKE; and~~  
~~pasteurizing wherein the ear of rice is pasteurized using the second pasteurization process~~  
separately from the pasteurization of SAKE.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~method process~~ of pasteurizing the ear of rice includes using at least one of: ~~Alcohol~~, Hydrogen Peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>); Hypoclorous Acid (HClO); Sorbic Acid (CH<sub>3</sub>CH=CHCH=CHCOOH), and surfactants, ~~or boiled water~~.

7. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:
  - a translucent container;
  - an alcoholic beverage produced brewed from rice and disposed in the translucent container, wherein the alcoholic beverage is pasteurized using a first pasteurization process; and
  - an ear of rice disposed in the translucent container, wherein the ear of rice is pasteurized using a second pasteurization process different than the first pasteurization process prior to being disposed in the translucent bottle.
8. (Original) The article of claim 7, wherein the ear of rice is of the same variety of rice from which the alcoholic beverage was brewed.
9. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 7, wherein:  
~~the SAKE is pasteurized; and~~  
the ear of rice is pasteurized using the second pasteurization process separately from the pasteurization of the ~~SAKE~~ alcoholic beverage.

**Please add the following new claims:**

10. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the translucent bottle comprises a material that is not offensive to the taste of the SAKE.
11. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first pasteurization processes comprises heating the SAKE at a temperature sufficient to pasteurize the SAKE.
12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the heating temperature is about 65 degrees Celsius.
13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the ear of rice is pasteurized using the second pasteurization process before being disposed in the translucent bottle.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the pasteurization of the ear of rice using the second pasteurization process does not diminish the quality of the SAKE and helps to prevent infection of the SAKE by at least one of bacteria, mold and yeast not capable of being eliminated by first pasteurization process.
15. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the variety rice from which the SAKE is brewed is SHUZOUKOUTEKIMAI.
16. (New) The article of claim 7, wherein the first pasteurization processes comprises heating the SAKE at a temperature sufficient to pasteurize the SAKE.
17. (New) The article of claim 16, wherein the heating temperature is about 65 degrees Celsius.
18. (New) The article of claim 7, wherein the ear of rice is pasteurized using the second pasteurization process before being disposed in the translucent bottle.
19. (New) The article of claim 7, wherein the pasteurization of the ear of rice using the second pasteurization process does not diminish the quality of the SAKE and helps to prevent infection of the SAKE by at least one of bacteria, mold and yeast not capable of being eliminated by first pasteurization process.

20. (New) A method comprising:

heating SAKE at a temperature of about 65 degrees Celsius sufficient to pasteurize the SAKE;

disposing the pasteurized SAKE into a translucent container that comprises a material that is not offensive to the taste of the SAKE;

pasteurizing an ear of rice using at least one of: Hydrogen Peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>); Hypoclorous Acid (HClO); Sorbic Acid (CH<sub>3</sub>CH=CHCH=CHCOOH), and surfactants;

inserting the pasteurized ear of rice into the translucent container such that the pasteurized ear of rice is submerged in the pasteurized SAKE; and

sealing the translucent bottle with the pasteurized SAKE and pasteurized ear of rice contained therein, wherein the pasteurization of the ear of rice helps to prevent infection of the pasteurized SAKE by at least one of bacteria, mold and yeast, wherein the bacteria mold and yeast each are not capable of being eliminated by the heating of SAKE at about 65 degrees Celsius.